



25 June 2008

Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Grand Canyon Emergency Mineral Withdrawal

Dear Secretary Kempthorne,

As you know, the Committee on Natural Resources today voted 20-2 in favor of a resolution finding that an emergency situation exists regarding uranium mining near Grand Canyon National Park. We applaud the committee's efforts, Congressmen Rahall and Grijalva's leadership specifically and we urge your immediate cooperation and compliance.

The resolution requires, pursuant to section 204(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1714(e)) and 43 CFR 2310.5, that the Secretary of the Interior shall, subject to valid existing rights, immediately withdraw the Federal lands generally depicted on the map entitled "Grand Canyon Watersheds Protection Act of 2008," dated May 28, 2008, from all forms of location and entry under the United States mining laws (30 U.S.C. 22 et seq.) for a period not to exceed three years. Again, we urge your immediate compliance with the resolution and FLPMA.

Pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 USC Sec. 553(e), this letter also serves as petition for the Secretary to immediately issue a rule withdrawing all lands subject to the Committee on Natural Resources' resolution and/or all land subject to protection under FLPMA, NEPA and other applicable statutes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Taylor W. McKinnon
Public Lands Director
Center for Biological Diversity
P.O.B. 1178
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/s/

Bill Hedden
Executive Director
Grand Canyon Trust
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